

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-07 DHA-02 CU-02 /080 W
-----002217 291306Z /43

O R 291215Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1766
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 5136

FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/SOV

FROM USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE
SUBJECT: BELGRADE CSCE: CONTACT GROUP MEETING, EVENING OF JULY 28

1. INFORMAL CONTACT GROUP MEETING, EVENING OF JULY 28, CONCEN-
TRATED ON ORGANIZATIONAL POINT 13, PARTICULARLY PROBLEM CON-
TAINED IN SENTENCES ON DURATION OF WORK OF WORKING BODIES AND
OVERALL DURATION OF MAIN MEETING.

2. ON QUESTION OF DURATION OF WORKING BODIES, A PROBLEM WHICH
HAS COME INTO FOCUS ONLY RECENTLY, SOVIETS AND GDR WERE ADAMANT
IN INSISTING THAT THERE SHOULD BE FIRM LANGUAGE INDICATING
CLEARLY THAT THE WORKING BODIES WOULD CEASE TO EXIST ON A
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SPECIFIED DATE. ALL OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN CONTACT GROUP
ARGUED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHEN WORKING
GROUPS WOULD FINISH THEIR WORK, AND THAT THEREFORE THE
LANGUAGE CHOSEN SHOULD PERMIT CONTINUATION OF THE WORKING
BODIES IF NECESSARY. VARIOUS FORMULATIONS WERE TRIED TO
RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM, RELATING TO THE TIMEFRAME WITHIN WHICH
THE WORKING BODIES SHOULD SUBMIT REPORTS TO THE PLENARY,

AND ALSO TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PLENARY MIGHT SET UP "DRAFTING GROUPS" (WITH MORE LIMITED MANDATES) TO CONCLUDE THE DRAFTING WORK OF THE WORKING BODIES IF THEIR WORK WERE NOT COMPLETED AS FORESEEN. KEY SENTENCE ON THIS SUBJECT, SHOWING ALTERNATIVE PREFERENCES, NOW APPEARS AS SENTENCE NUMBER (3) IN TEXT OF POINT 13 TRANSMITTED BELOW.

3. ON OVERALL DURATION QUESTION, SOVIETS OFFERED SOME (VERY SLIGHT) NEW FLEXIBILITY BY SAYING DATES FOR RESUMPTION OF MEETING AFTER THE NEW YEAR MIGHT BE DESCRIBED MORE GENERALLY (E.G., MID-JANUARY TO MID-FEBRUARY). THIS WOULD PERMIT A FEW DAYS OF LEEWAY IN FEBRUARY CLOSING DATE. AGAIN, A NUMBER OF FORMULATIONS WERE ADVANCED FOR FINAL SENTENCE OF POINT 13 WITHOUT AGREEMENT. MOST PARTICIPANTS APPEAR WILLING TO ACCEPT A COMPROMISE ON THIS POINT, AS INDICATED BELOW, BUT DUTCH, UK, AND ROMANIANS ARE NOT YET READY TO MEET SOVIET DESIRES COMPLETELY, AND WE HAVE INDICATED THAT WE ARE STILL RELUCTANT TO MOVE TOWARD THE SOVIET COMPROMISE OFFER. AT END OF MEETING, THREE ALTERNATIVES WERE WRITTEN DOWN, WHICH APPEAR AS SENTENCES (6A), (6B), AND (6C) IN BELOW TEXT.

4. FOLLOWING IS CURRENT COMPOSITE TEXT OF ORGANIZATIONAL POINT 13, WITH EXPLANATORY COMMENTS:

BEGIN TEXT:

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(1) THE MEETING WILL OPEN IN PLENARY ON BEGIN SQUARE BRACKETS 27 SEPTEMBER/3 OCTOBER AND SQUARE BRACKETS 1977 AT 11 A.M. (COMMENT: CANADIANS AND THREE OTHER WESTERN DELS PREFER EARLY OCTOBER AND NO DELEGATION HAS OBJECTED. OTHER DATES WOULD HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED ONE WEEK IF 3 OCTOBER IS AGREED.)

(2) WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE EIGHTH WEEK, THE PELENARY WILL RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES.

(3) THE SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES BEGIN SQUARE BRACKETS WILL/SHOULD/WILL ENDEAVOR TO END SQUARE BRACKETS COMPLETE THEIR WORK BY BEGIN SQUARE BRACKETS 3/9 END SQUARE BRACKETS DECEMBER 1977, IN ORDER TO GIVE THE PLENARY ENOUGH TIME TO DRAFT THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE PLENARY MAY SET UP BEGIN SQUARE BRACKETS A/ONE OR SEVERAL AND SQUARE BRACKETS DRAFTING GROUPS.

(COMMENT: SOVIETS INSIST ON "WILL COMPLETE THEIR WORK" AND PREFER 3 DECEMBER AS DATE. THEY ALSO WANT A LIMIT OF ONLY ONE DRAFTING GROUP. WE AND OTHER ALLIES

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SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-07 DHA-02 CU-02 /080 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 5136

EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR "WILL ENDEAVOR TO", 9 DECEMBER,
AND "ONE OR SEVERAL" DRAFTING GROUPS. NEUTRALS ARE
SCATTERED IN BETWEEN. WE BELIEVE MOST ALLIES AND NEU-
TRALS WOULD SETTLE FOR "SHOULD COMPLETE THEIR WORK,"
3 DECEMBER, AND "ONE OR SEVERAL," OR JUST "DRAFTING
GROUPS" IF SOVIETS WOULD AGREE.)
(4) EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE BY THE BEGIN SQUARE
BRACKETS PLENARY/MEETING END SQUARE BRACKETS TO AGREE ON
THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT NOT LATER THAN 15 DECEMBER 1977.
(COMMENT: THIS IS A MINOR POINT. GDR AND SOVIETS PRE-
FER "PLENARY"; OTHERS PREFER "MEETING.")
(5) IF BY THAT DATE THIS IS NOT ACCOMPLISHED, THE
MEETING WILL BE RESUMED MID-JANUARY TO LAST UNTIL MID-
FEBRUARY TO COMPLETE THE DRAFTING OF THE CONCLUDING
DOCUMENT.)
(COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO BRACKETS IN THIS
SENTENCE, DUTCH REP EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR EXPRESSING
JANUARY RESUMPTION WITH A FIXED DATE, WHILE RETAINING
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"MID-FEBRUARY" FOR CLOSING DATE.)
(6A) THE MEETING WILL END AFTER FIXING THE DATE AND

PLACE OF THE NEXT SIMILAR MEETING AND BY ADOPTING A CONCLUDING DOCUMENT.

(6B) THE MEETING WILL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGENDA, END BY ADOPTING A CONCLUDING DOCUMENT AND BY FIXING THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SIMILAR MEETING.

(6C) THE MEETING WILL NOT END ITS WORK WITHOUT HAVING ADOPTED A CONCLUDING DOCUMENT AND WITHOUT HAVING FIXED THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SIMILAR MEETING.

(COMMENT: (6A) AND (6B) ARE TWO ALTERNATIVE COM-PROMISE SENTENCES DRAFTED BY AUSTRIAN REP DURING CONTACT GROUP SESSION. AS A COROLLARY TO EITHER VERSION, THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS 7 AND 8 WOULD BE REVERSED. THE SOVIETS HAVE SAID THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT ONE OF THESE FORMULATIONS AND WOULD REFLECT ON WHICH ONE THEY PREFERRED. MOST NEUTRAL/NON-ALIGNED, AND SOME OF OUR ALLIES, CAN PROBABLY ACCEPT ONE OF THESE FORMULAS. DUTCH, UK, AND ROMANIANS PREFER (6C), AND WE HAVE INDICATED THAT THIS IS ALSO OUR PREFERENCE.)
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: BELGRADE CSCE: CONTACT GROUP MEETING, EVENING OF JULY 28
TAGS: MPOL, CSCE
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